

# **Blue Pharmacy: Marine Organisms in Discovery & Development of New Pharmaceuticals**

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Better Off Blue, 27-28 September 2017, Berlin



Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel



## Helmholtz Association (18 centers, 7 Institutes)

Germany's largest scientific organisation  
>37K employees (>15K scientists), Budget 4 Billion € p.a.

## GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel

- A world-leading institute in the field of marine science
- 950 scientific and technical staff
- Annual budget of 72 Mio €

### Research Divisions

- Ocean Circulation & Climate Dynamics
- Marine Biogeochemistry
- **Marine Ecology (4 RUs, RU MN - GEOMAR-Biotech)**
- Dynamics of the Ocean Floor

## University of Kiel



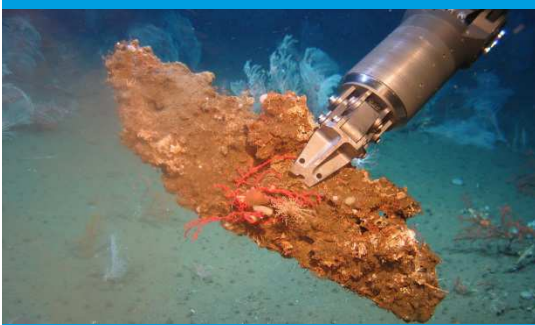
- Excellence Clusters Future Ocean, Kiel Life Sciences
- Joint teaching (Bachelor & MSc, Graduate School)



Kiel ROV (remote operating vehicle) 6000



Sample collection by Kiel ROV



AUV (automatic underwater vehicle)



Submersible Jago



# GEOMAR research vessels & large equipment



MS Merian



MS Meteor



MS Sonne

MS Alkor



MS Polarstern

MS Polarfuchs

MS Littorina

KIMOCC – Organism culture facilities



Mesocosms



Kiel Benthocosm



# Infrastructure – RU Marine Natural Products Chemistry / GEOMAR-Biotech



Fermentation  
OSMAC,  
Co-culture

Automated  
Extraction  
ASE, SFE

Bioassays  
Ecological  
Pharmacological

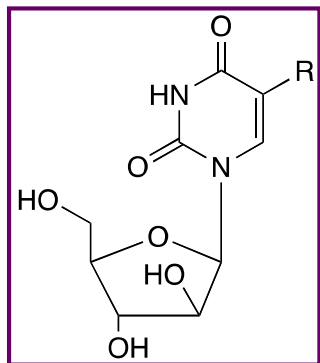
Metabolomics  
DESI - MS  
Imaging

Fractionation  
Purification

Structure  
elucidation

**Integrated Approaches for (Ecology-Driven) and Drug Discovery**

# Overview of History & Global Marine Natural Product (MNP) Pipeline

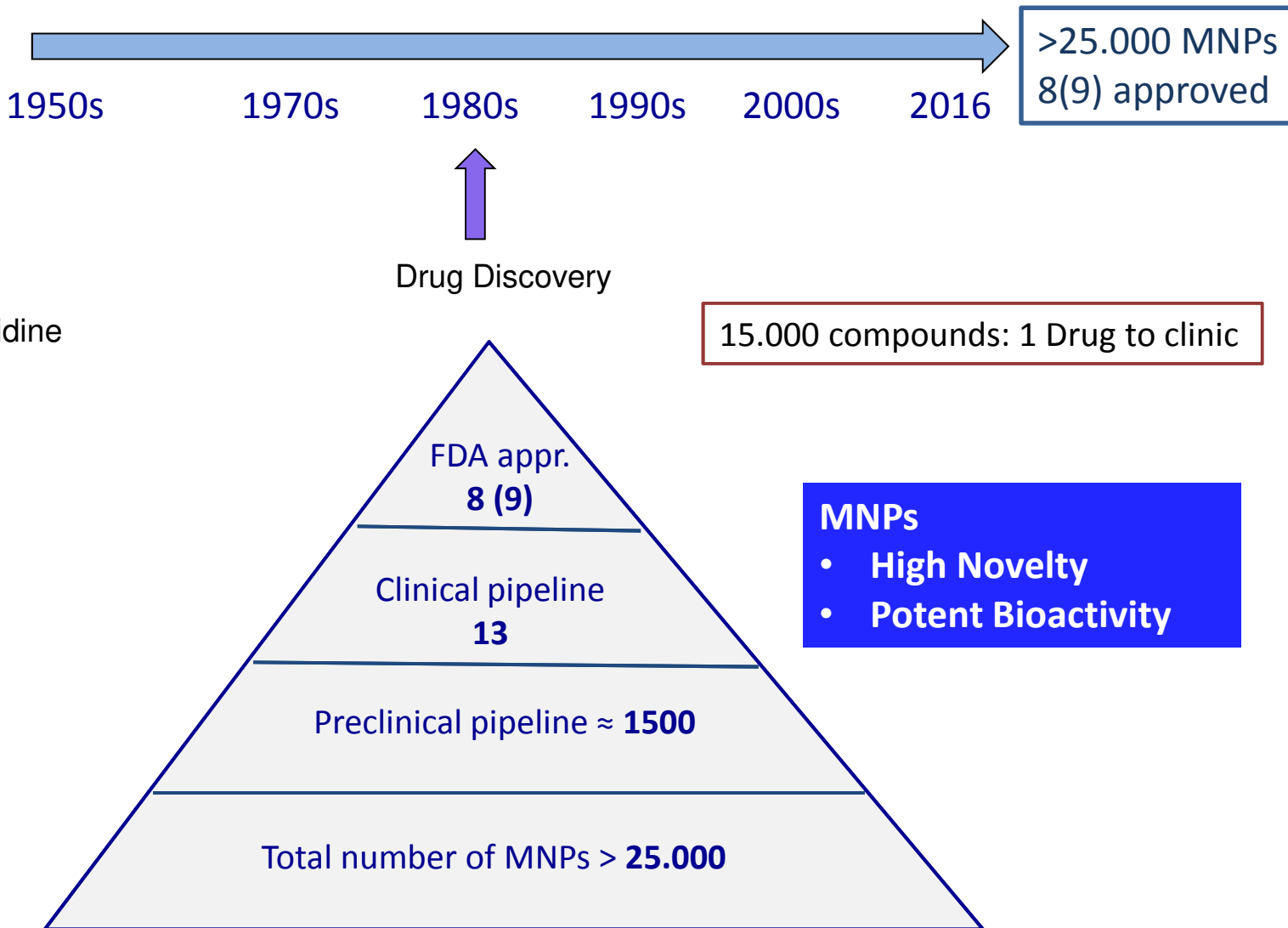


R= H Spongouridine  
R= Me Spongothymidine

*Cryptotethia crypta*  
Bergmann & Finney  
1950-1956

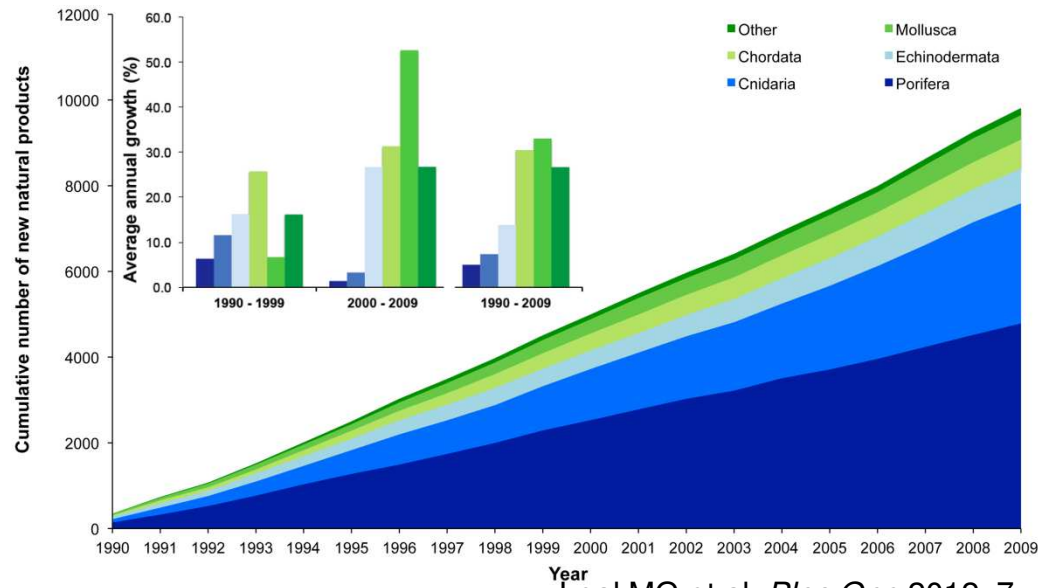


Cytarabine - 1969

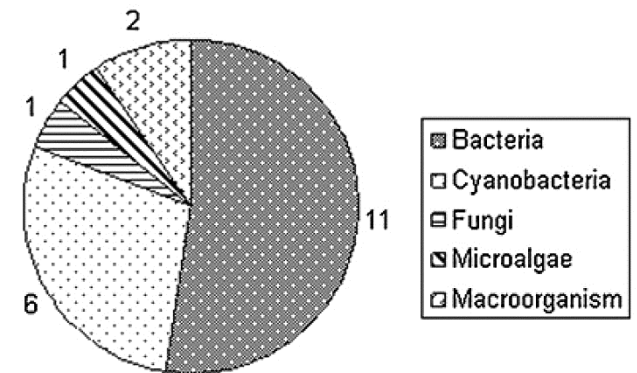
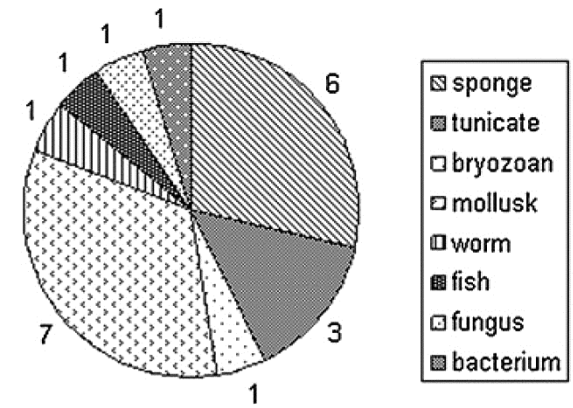




## Sources and Distribution



Leal MG et al. *Plos One* 2012, 7, e30580.



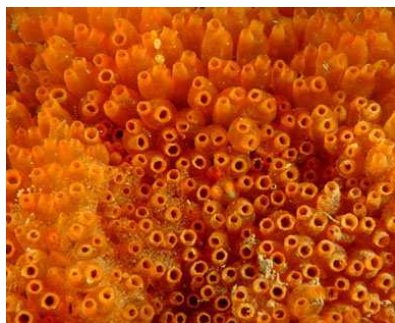
### Origin of the MNPs

- Tropical / subtropical
- Temperate waters
- 2% from deep sea organisms
- Mainly Sponges, Cnidarians

### Distribution of MNPs in clinic /clinical trials & Their demonstrated /predicted metabolic sources

Gerwick & Fenner, *Microb. Ecol.* 2013, 65, 800-806

16 of 20 marine anticancer drug candidates are of microbial origin

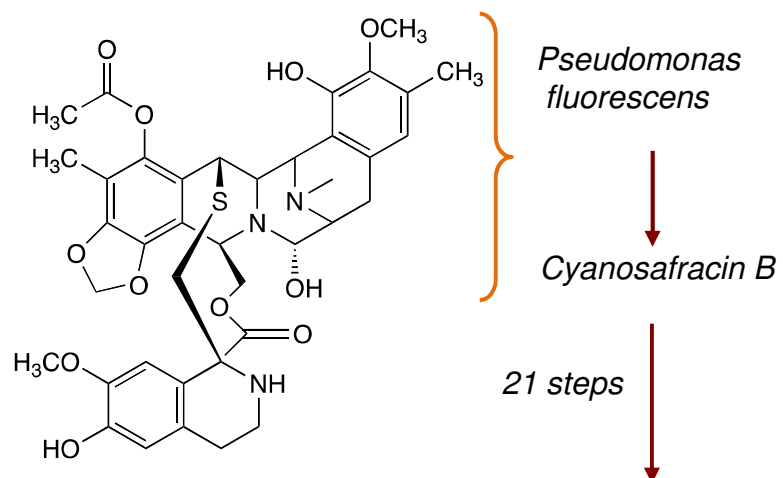


*Ecteinascidea turbinata*  
*Endoecteinascidia frumentensis*

## Microbial origin of MNPs



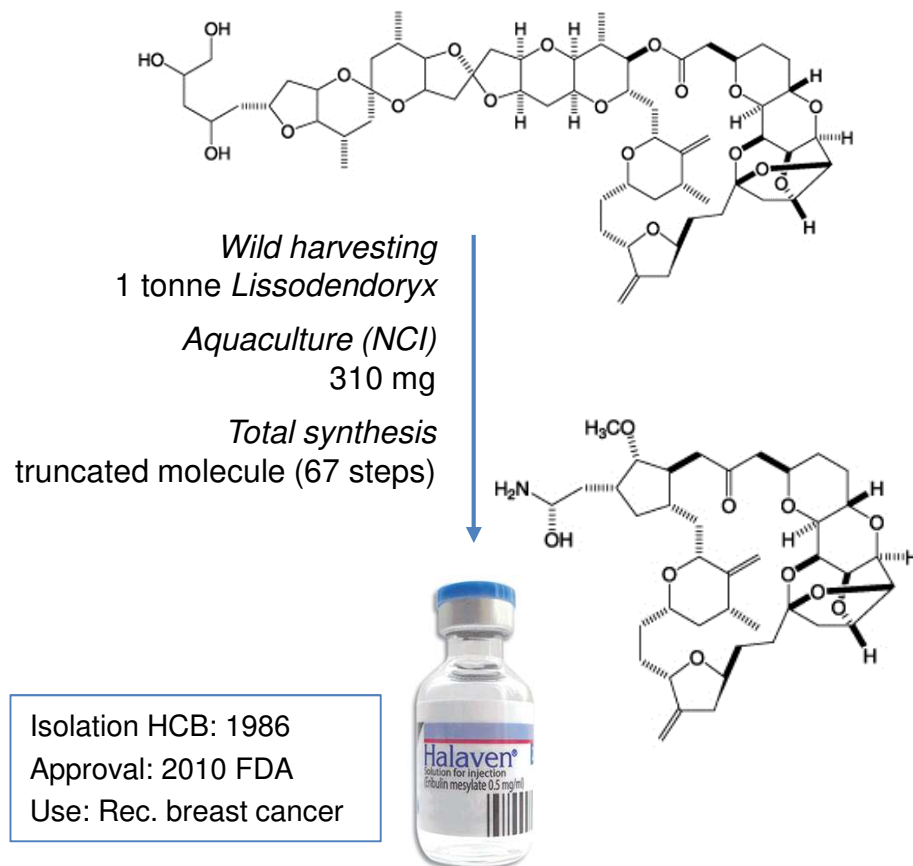
*Halichondria okadai* (1986)  
*Lissodendoryx*, *Phakellia*, *Axinella* sp.



1970: Anticancer act. of extract  
 1990: Purification of ET-743  
 2007: Approval  
 Use: Solid cancers



ET-743, Yondelis®



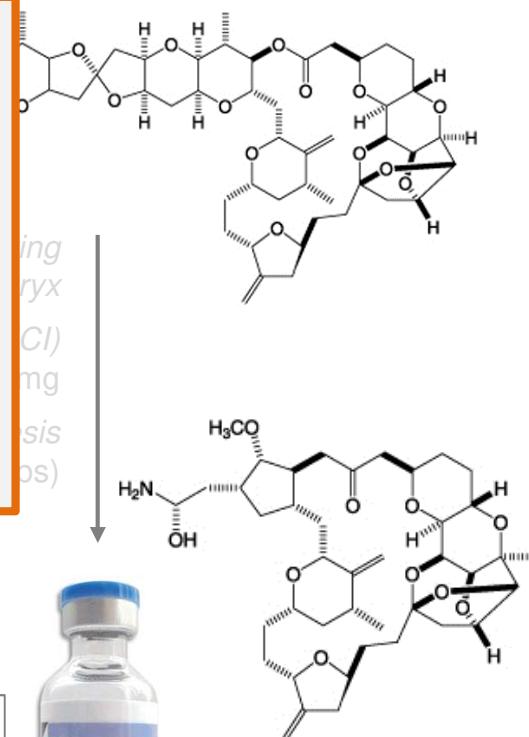
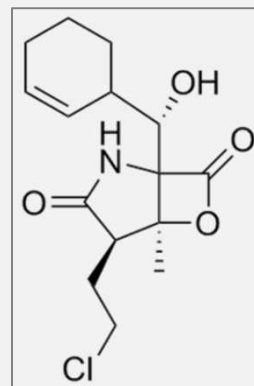
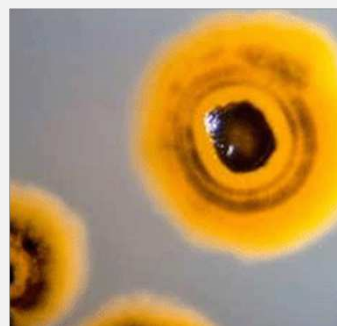
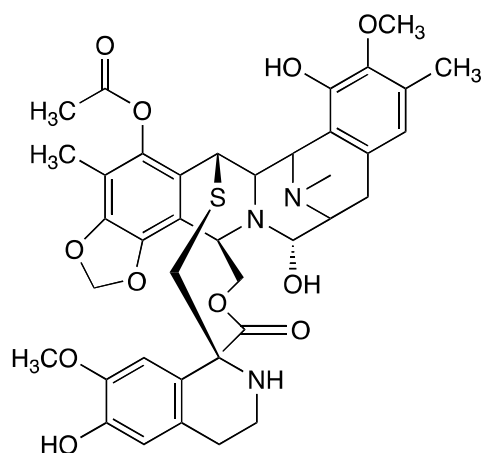
Erubilin mesylate, Halaven®



*Ecteinascidea turbinata*  
*Endoecteinascidia frumentensis*



*Halichondria okadai* (1986)  
*Lissodendoryx*, *Phakellia*, *Axinella* sp.



Isolation HCB: 1986  
Approval: 2010 FDA  
Use: Rec. breast cancer

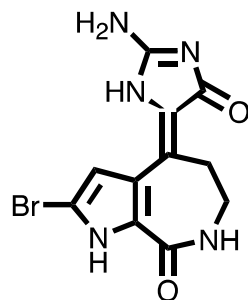
Erubilin mesylate, Halaven®



## Anticancer MNPs from Marine Sponges



*Stylissa massa*



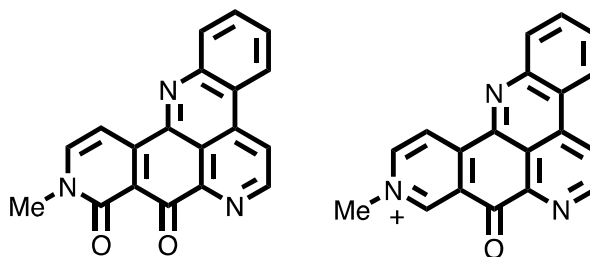
**10Z-Hymenialdisine**

Kinase inhibitor (MEK)  
IC<sub>50</sub> value **6nM**

*J. Med. Chem.*, 2002, 45, 529-532



*Xestospongia sp.*



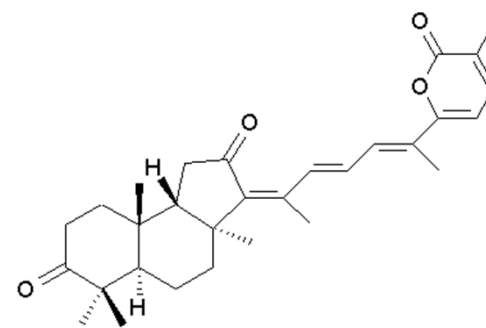
**Neoamphimedine Deoxyamphimedine**

Topoisomerase II inhibitor  
Equal *in vivo* activity to Etoposide

*J. Org. Chem.*, 2001, 66, 3246-3248  
*Biochem. Pharm.*, 2003, 66, 447-458  
*Marine Drugs*, 2009, 7, 196-209



*Rhabdastrella globostellata*



**Stellettin B**

Extremely potent anticancer  
p21WAF1/Cip1(-)HCT- 116  
IC<sub>50</sub> value 43 nM

*J. Nat. Prod.*, 2002, 65, 210-14

# Ocean's dark matter – Microbiome

An iceberg floating in the ocean under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The small tip of the iceberg is above the water line, while the vast, jagged, and complex structure of the iceberg is submerged below the surface. This visual metaphor represents the vast, mostly unknown microbial diversity of the ocean compared to the small fraction that can be cultivated in the lab.

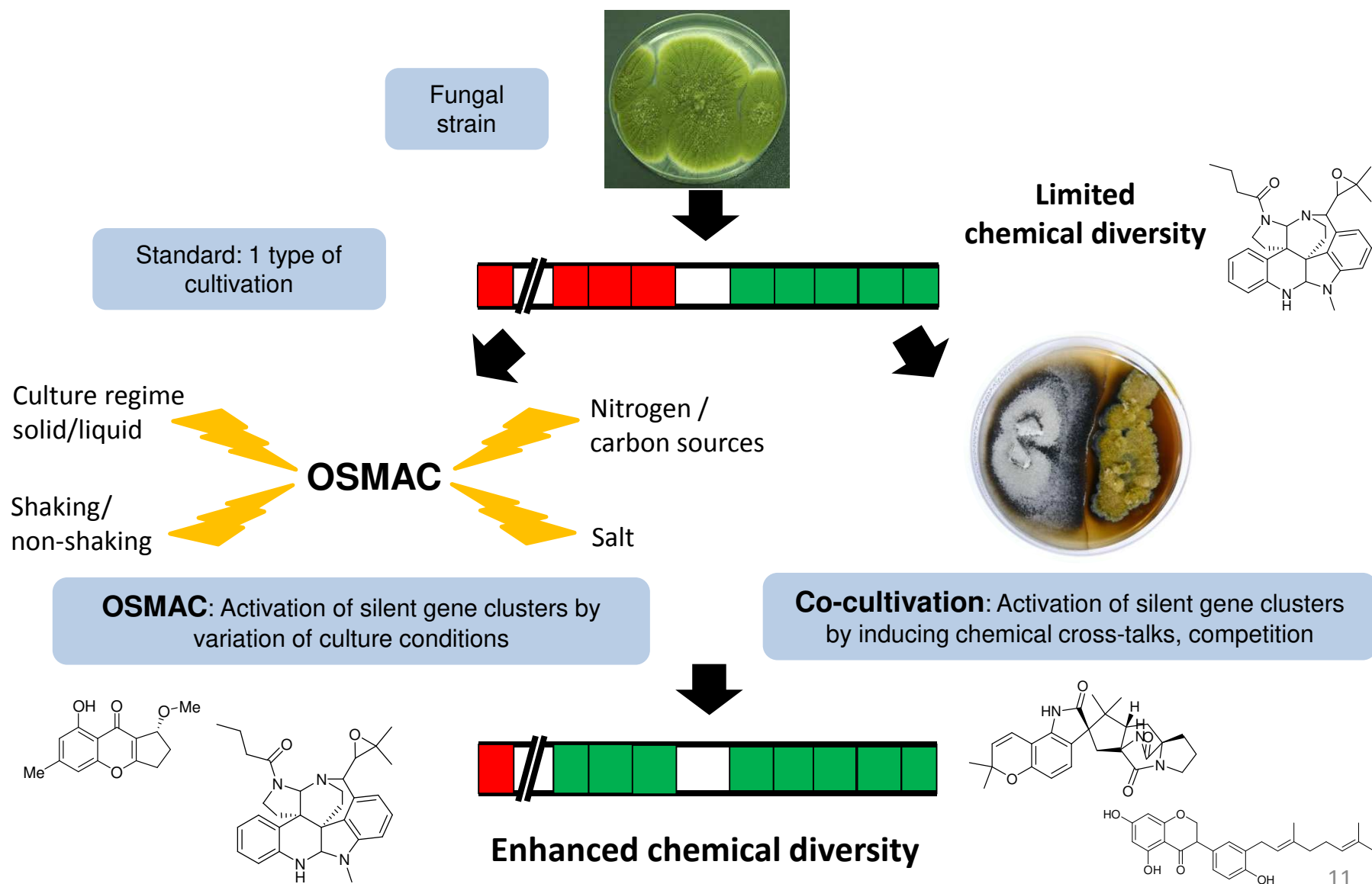
**1% cultivable**

The majority of biosynthetic gene clusters (BGCs) remain silent

- Inaccessible capacity
- Known compounds

**99% uncultivable**

# Increasing Chemodiversity - Activating Silent BGCs by OSMAC and Co-cultivation Approaches





# Ocean's dark matter – Metabolome

An iceberg floating in the ocean under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The small tip of the iceberg is above the water line, while the vast, jagged, and complex structure of the iceberg is submerged beneath the surface. This visual metaphor represents the concept of 'dark matter' in the ocean's metabolome, where a tiny fraction is known and the rest is hidden.

1.8% annotable

>98% dark matter

# Identifying Chemical Inventory by Molecular Networking



Extracts

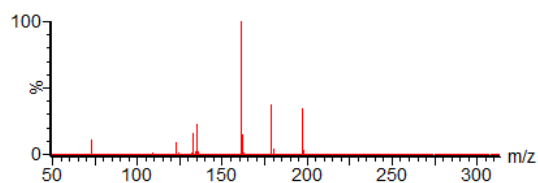
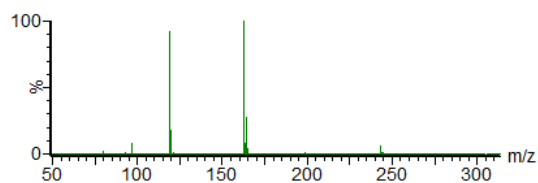
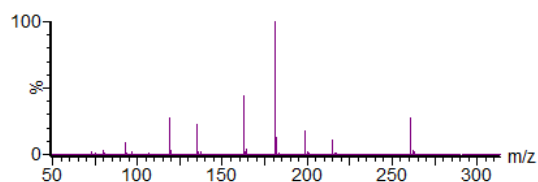
## GNPS

GNPS: Global Natural Products Social Molecular Networking

<https://gnps.ucsd.edu>

Wang et al. 2016

## LC-MS/MS analysis



Tandem Mass Spectrometry Data

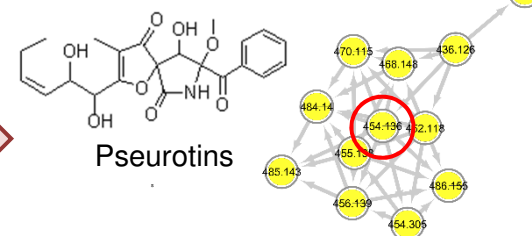
## GNPS

MS/MS spectra  
comparison

- Annotation of putative  
known compounds (using  
MS/MS databases)

→ Dereplication

## Molecular Networking

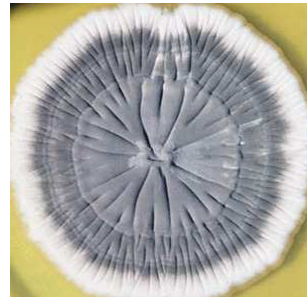
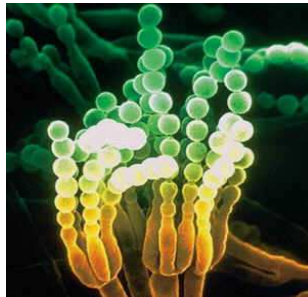


Pseurotin

Clustering data based on  
MS/MS spectra similarities

→ Global chemical  
diversity overview  
→ Known / unknown  
molecular clusters

# Why Fungi, Why Marine Fungi / Marine Fungal Natural Products?



## 2014. Marine Fungal Natural Products (MaFNaP) Consortium

- To intensify the systematic research on **marine fungal natural products**
- To stimulate networking and collaborations for joint research
- **Unlock the real capacity of marine fungi for products & processes!**

**2015. Inaugural MaFNaP conference, Nantes (France)**



# Why Fungi, Why Marine Fungi / Marine Fungal Natural Products?



## 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of Marine Fungal Natural Products (MaFNaP\_2017)

27-29 June 2017  
Kiel, Germany



**3<sup>rd</sup> MaFNaP\_2019: 26 – 28 June 2019, Athens, Greece**

# Baltic Blue Biotechnology ALLIANCE

*Advancing marine biobased product development*

**Lead partner: GEOMAR**

**Duration: 3 years (March 2016)**

**Budget: € 3.4 M**

**Management: SUBMARINER Network EEIG**



[www.balticbluebioalliance.eu](http://www.balticbluebioalliance.eu)

 **#BalticBlueBioAlliance**

**BalticBlueBio ALLIANCE Consortium:** Research organizations, biotech hubs, business parks, SUBMARINER Network, companies..

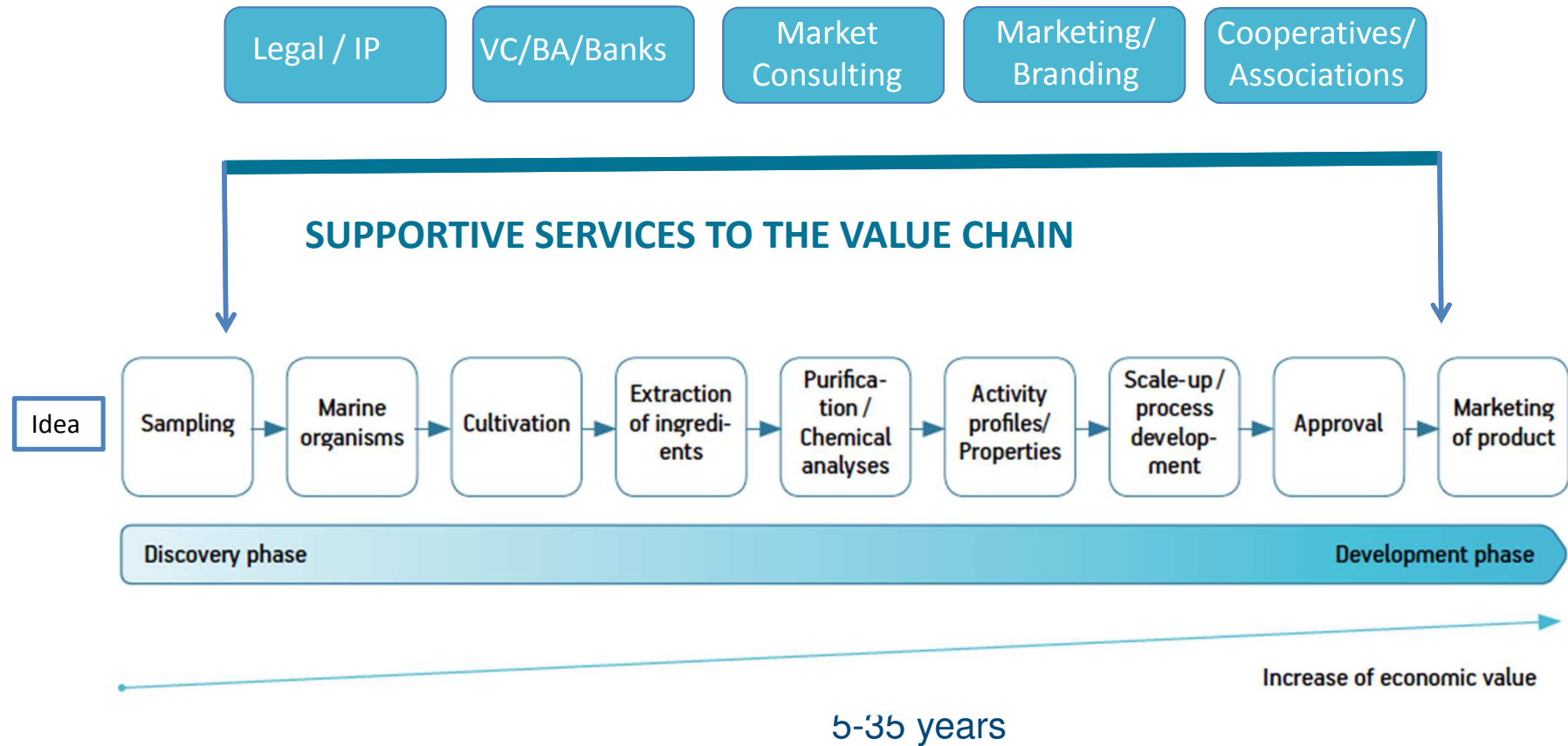
**Expertise:** Aquaculture, chemistry, microbiology, waste water treatments, life cycle analysis, aquatic ecology, IP-TT, marketing..



Partner		Function	Partner		Function
GEOMAR	DE	<b>Lead, WP2</b>	CRM	DE	<b>Case owner</b>
SUBMARINER Network EEIG	DE	<b>P, WP4</b>	Biovento Sp. z.o.o	PL	<b>Case owner</b>
BioCon Valley GmbH	DE	P	JSC 'Geoterma'	LT	<b>Case owner</b>
KTH Royal Institute of Technology	SE	P	JSC 'Baltic Probiotics'	LV	<b>Case owner</b>
University of Gothenburg	SE	P	Kalundborg Utility A/S	DK	<b>Case owner</b>
Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)	FI	P			
University of Gdansk	PL	P	<b>6 new funded partners</b>	---	
Pomeranian Special Economic Zone Lt	PL	P			
Coastal Research & Planning Institute	LT	P	<b>9 cases for mentorship</b>		
Danish Techn. Institute (DTI)	DK	<b>P, WP3</b>			
Klaipeda Sci & Techn Park (KSTP)	LT	P			
Latvian Biotech. Assoc. (LBA)	LV	P	Agro Business Park	DK	Associated Partner
Tartu Biotechnology Park SA	EE	P	ESMB	FR	Associated Partner
Svanvid Sp. z.o.o	PL	P	CIIMAR	PT	Associated Partner
SAMS	UK	P	University of Greifswald	DE	Associated Partner

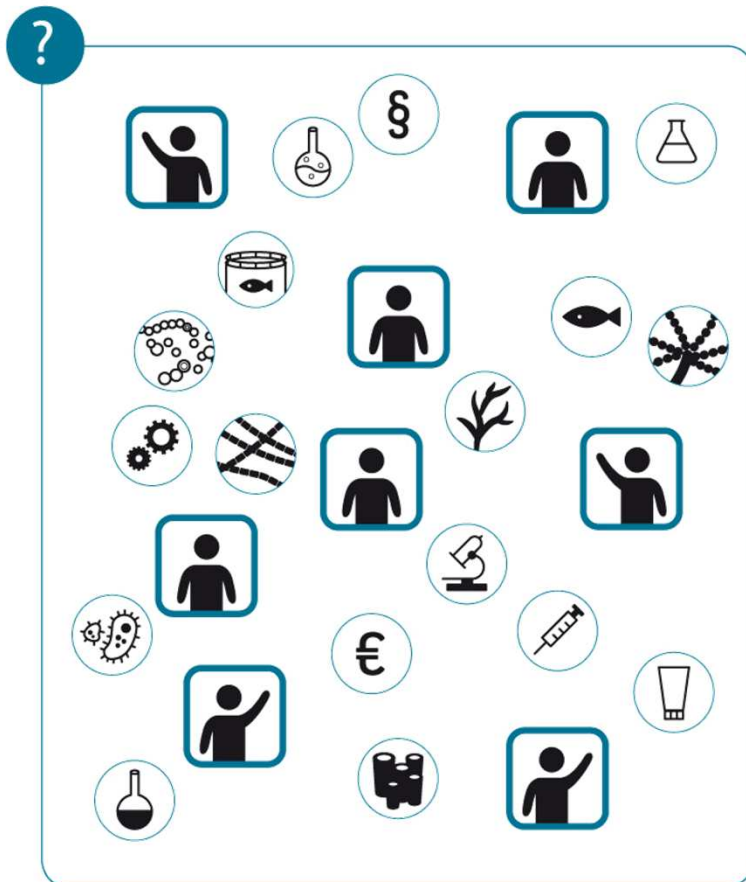


# Blue Biotechnology pipeline / full value chain



**Background:** Submariner Compendium, Roadmap; Sustainable BG agenda for BSR EC 2014

## The challenge: No integrated blue biotech value chains in the BSR!



Resources and expertise are **present but too fragmented** to make full use of innovation & market uptake potential

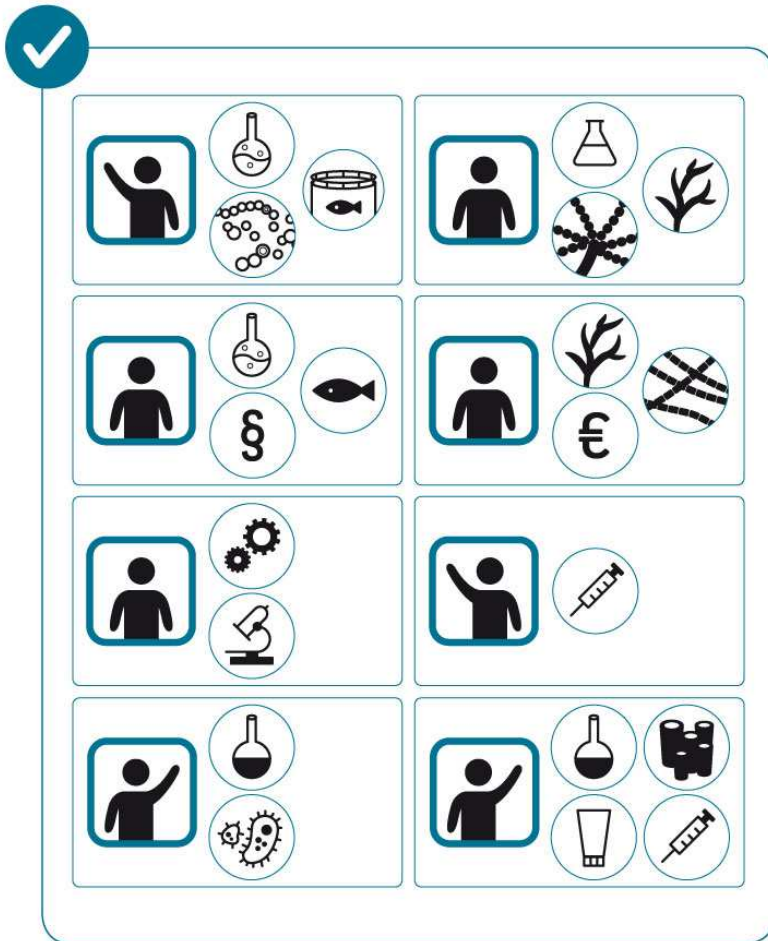
No single actor can cover the **full range of services** across the whole value chain

Need for reaching the **critical mass** through **systematic cooperation** to pool national resources and expertise

The sector needs **concrete success stories** in product development to showcase the economic potential

*Accelerating the development of marine bio-based products through translational collaboration of Public & private partners*

## What / How we want to achieve



Work with **real “client” cases** as the starting point

Understand **case owners’ needs** to advance in product development

A needs-oriented **service offer**, e.g.

- Mentoring (2-3 mentors-site visits)
- Map infrastructure & service offers
- Partner search and match-making
- Marketing, legal, financial advise

**Match** cases to the right **services, facilities and experts** throughout the BSR

Offer expertise, labs, facilities, resources to case partners

**Proactive search** for new actors (cases)

- calls, pitching events, joint marketing

A **self-sustaining network** of actors providing service offers



# The first generation cases



## Case 1. Baltic macroalgae in global cosmetics



New product based on macroalgal extracts

Application in cosmetics to protect skin from free radicals

Alliance helping to find extraction method/upscaling



**Levent Piker**  
CRM, Kiel | Germany

## Case 2. Search for antifouling compounds for ship industry



Start-up hopes to identify algae growth inhibitors in its microalgae collection

Alliance helping with bioactivity testing, extraction methods, chemistry and market research



**Natalia Kujawska**  
Biovento | Poland



### Case 3. Microalgae facility for hire



Putting an existing state-of-the-art microalgae test facility to new use as a test and research facility

Alliance helping to develop concept and identify new users



**Preben Thisgaard**  
Kalundborg Utility | Denmark

### Case 4. Healthy fish, happy customers



Company working on probiotics-based products applications in fish aquaculture

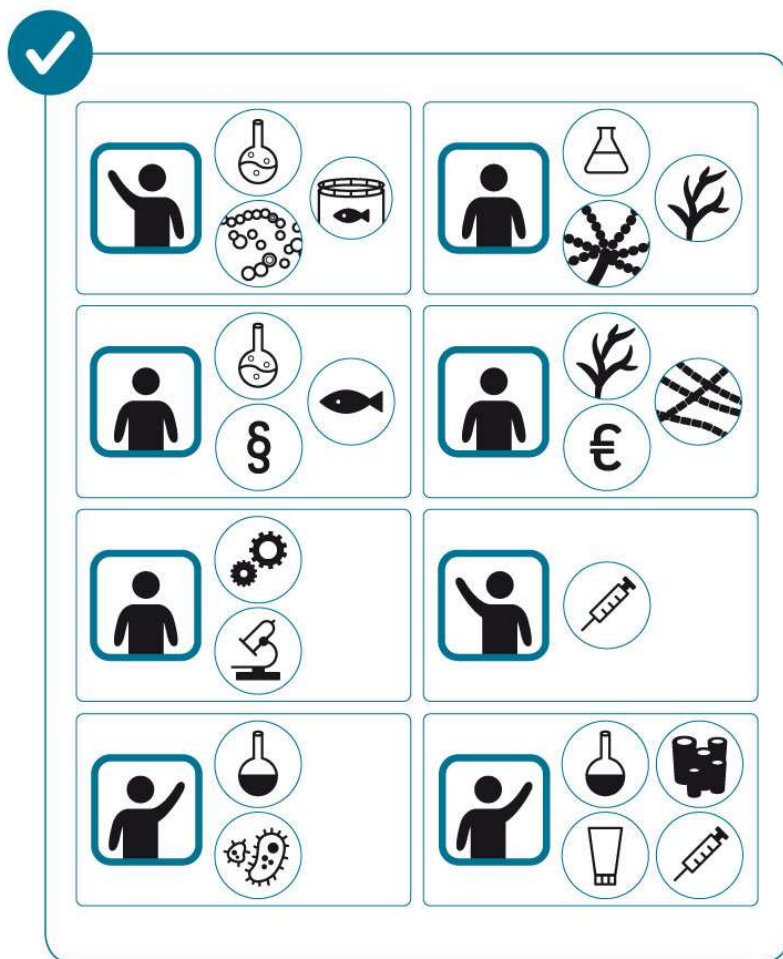
Promote fish health & reduce the need for antibiotics in aquaculture

Alliance helps with extraction, market research and product development



**Arta Bārdule**  
Baltic Probiotics | Latvia

## Expected outcomes



- BSR-wide partnership of academia & industry to facilitate blue biotech
- Develop/advance innovative marine bio-based **products and services**
- Develop optimal transnational pathways
- Single information & cooperation hub (database) - GEOMAR
- Reach the critical mass
- Increase global competitiveness of BSR-foster transition to eco-friendly production

*Set example for European Blue Biotech?*



# BalticBlueBioAlliance pitching & match-making event

8-10 November, Berlin



[www.balticbluebioalliance.eu](http://www.balticbluebioalliance.eu)

